

### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

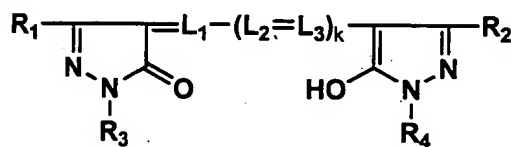
Claim 1. (original) An image forming method comprising:

exposing a silver halide photographic material and

processing the photographic material,

wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (1) and a white area of the processed photographic material exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722:

formula (1)



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each -CN, -COOR or -CONR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>; R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub> and L<sub>3</sub> are each a methine group and k is 2, provided that the respective -L<sub>2</sub>=L<sub>3</sub>- may be the same or different; R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an

aryl group or a heterocyclic group or  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  may combine with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, provided that  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are not hydrogen atoms at the same time and at least one of  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  is a water-solubilizing group or a group containing a water-solubilizing group.

Claim 2. (original) An image forming method comprising:  
exposing a silver halide photographic material and  
processing the photographic material,  
wherein the photographic material is exposed by  
scanning exposure with a light beam and a white area of the  
photographic material exhibits perception chromaticity  
indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0,  
respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730  
and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-  
8722.

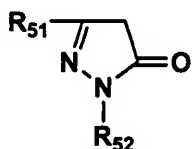
Claim 3. (original) An image forming method comprising:  
exposing a silver halide photographic material and  
processing the photographic material,  
wherein the photographic material contains a compound  
represented by formula (1) as claimed in claim 1, the

photographic material is exposed by scanning exposure with a light beam and a white area of the processed photographic material exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722.

Claim 4. (currently amended) The image forming method as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the total amount of gelatin contained in the photographic material is not more than 6.2 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The image forming method as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (2):

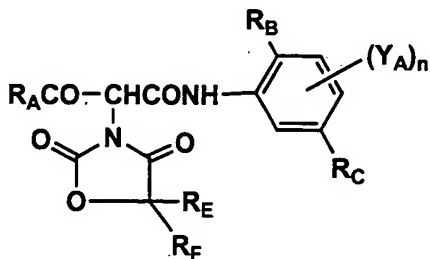
formula (2)



wherein R<sub>51</sub> is a carbonamide group or an anilino group; R<sub>52</sub> is a phenyl group which may be substituted.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The image forming method as claimed in claim 1 ~~ay of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (3):

formula (3)



wherein  $R_A$  is an alkyl group;  $R_B$  is a halogen atom or an alkoxy group;  $R_C$  is  $\text{COOR}_{D1}$ ,  $-\text{COOR}_{D2}\text{COOR}_{D1}$ ,  $-\text{NHCOR}_{D2}\text{SO}_2\text{R}_{D1}$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}_{D3})\text{SO}_2\text{R}_{D1}$  or  $-\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}_{D3})\text{R}_{D1}$ , in which  $R_{D1}$  is a univalent organic group,  $R_{D2}$  is an alkylene group and  $R_{D3}$  is an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or a hydrogen atom;  $Y_A$  is a univalent organic group;  $n$  is 0 or 1;  $R_E$  and  $R_F$  are each a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group.

Claim 7. (original) A silver halide photographic material, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by formula (1) as claimed in claim 1 and a white area of the photographic material processed in standard process A exhibits perception chromaticity indexes  $a$  and  $b$  of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said  $a$

and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722.

Claim 8. (original) A silver halide photographic material, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by formula (2) as claimed in claim 5 and a white area of the photographic material processed in standard process A exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722.

Claim 9. (original) A silver halide photographic material, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by formula (3) as claimed in claim 6 and a white area of the photographic material processed in standard process A exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722.